

4-H Juneteenth 16-Day Challenge



This celebration marks a day in 1865 when enslaved Texans learned they'd be free, two months after Robert E. Lee surrendered and ended the Civil War, and two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Source:

<https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/teaching-juneteenth>

Juneteenth continues to be a time to share the experiences of those who fought to seek freedom and equal opportunities for future generations. 4-H shares a commitment to equity and opportunity. May this day serve as a time to reflect on our past, assess where we stand today, and plan for the future with open hearts and minds.

Are you ready to take the challenge and complete a Juneteenth activity each day in this state-level Experience awards-eligible activity?

Civic Season is the time between Juneteenth and July 4th ~ This calendar reflects that time for activities!

16-day challenge

6/19 Activity: Attend a local Juneteenth celebration or make a poster to celebrate.

6/20 Read: What is Juneteenth?

6/21 Interview a Family or Community Elder: Ask about their understanding of Juneteenth or how freedom and equality have evolved in their lifetime. Share a short write-up or video.

6/22 Watch: What is Juneteenth and why is it important?

6/23 Research: Who celebrates Juneteenth?

6/24 Research: Research the cultural significance of celebrating the holiday with red food

6/25 Juneteenth Recipe Challenge: With an adult, cook or bake a red food recipe traditionally associated with Juneteenth, such as red velvet cake, hibiscus tea, or watermelon salad. Share the story behind the food.

6/26 Create a Juneteenth Timeline: Make a visual timeline that includes key events leading up to Juneteenth and how it's been celebrated over time

6/27 Host a Juneteenth Book Club or Read-Aloud: Pick a Juneteenth-themed children's or YA book and host a virtual or in-person discussion or read-aloud for younger 4-H members.

6/28 Listen/Watch: Frederick Douglass "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

Read by his descendants.

6/29 Freedom Walk or Scavenger Hunt: Organize a walk or scavenger hunt with stops to learn about Black historical figures or events, either in your community or online.

6/30 Create a “Freedom Then and Now” Art Piece: Make a drawing, collage, or digital art piece comparing life before and after Juneteenth, or how the meaning of freedom has changed today.

7/1 Activity: Draft a short pledge or mission statement about how you will promote equity and inclusion, inspired by Juneteenth, and about how you can help make those changes happen with 4-H!.

7/2 Read: Learn the history and significance of the food eaten on this holiday

7/3 Juneteenth Music Day: Explore the role of music in Black history—listen to freedom songs, spirituals, or modern civil rights

7/4 Write a Thank-You Letter to a Change-Maker: Research someone who helped advance civil rights (past or present) and write them a letter thanking them or reflecting on their impact.

Take a picture of you with your completed calendar and an activity you did, and submit it to: go.illinois.edu/HeritageMonthActivity.

Remember to include this in your Experience Award application as a state-level experience.

